

Fatally struck by a stray bullet on January 19, 2022, I stand before you to say goodbye to Robert and wish him well in the next life.

Robert was a kind, respectful and polite young man. He loved his family and cared deeply about his future. His life was not easy, but a rough start would not define him. He would work hard and chase after his dreams. Robert understood clearly that he would have to fight for every inch of progress.

A senior at HARP Academy and a participant in the Upward Bound Program at Montclair University, Robert challenged himself academically. Often so engrossed in his studies, Robert chose to forgo time with his friends to prepare for college. He was a self-described homebody and favored time alone with his immediate family.

While enrolled at Upward Bound, a program for disadvantaged high school students, Robert blossomed. Montclair University was a place he felt comfortable and accepted. Taking classes in subjects that inspired him and interacting with people who shared his interests motivated him. Robert was on track, there was light at the end of the tunnel. He could find himself and engage in the many wonderful experiences that make our youth a memorable time.

As a father and grandfather, I can only imagine the hurt. I ask the Cuadra family to continue to tell stories about Robert and breathe life into his memory for his siblings and extended family. Robert's passing is especially difficult and its tragic to have lost a young man with so much potential. Our community was enriched by people like him, and his actions set an example for all to follow.

My heart breaks for Robert and I know he will be missed by many people. It is my hope that the love and support of friends and all those whose lives he touched will help the Cuadra family manage the loss of Robert. My thoughts and prayers are with all of them during this time of mourning. Robert brought happiness into our lives and everyone around him.

As we honor him today, I know there are still many young men and women in similar situations. While this moment in time is undeniably sad, we should draw inspiration from his story. Robert struggled and fought to get ahead in life. We honor him because he reminds us that life can be difficult, but we should never give up in the face of adversity.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, friends, family, and the residents of New Jersey in recognizing the memory of Robert Daniel Cuadra. We keep him in prayer, and we commit to watch over his family. Robert, may he rest in peace.

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING DR. BENJAMIN "BENJIE" SANTIAGO ON BEING SELECTED AS THE 2021 GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. Benjamin "Benjie" Santiago on being selected as

the 2021 Guam Department of Education (GDOE) Teacher of the Year. Dr. Santiago is an exemplary teacher whose commitment to service and devotion to community have and continue to inspire our youth, foster great leadership, and expand opportunities for our island students to lead successful lives.

The Teacher of the Year Program is the oldest and most prestigious national honors program focused on recognizing excellence in teaching. Providing a platform for highlighting both the extraordinary work and dedication of educators across the country and the importance of quality education in the futures of our youth, island, and nation, this program has uniquely directed community accolades to outstanding teachers in Guam since 1969. Following a rigorous nomination, evaluation, and observation process, Dr. Santiago was awarded the honor from among six finalists.

Dr. Santiago first discovered his passion for teaching when he took on roles as an instructor at cultural dance academies and a local fitness organization. Embracing his calling to help others on their personal paths of achievement, he navigated an extensive teaching career that has resulted in what is now 25 years with GDOE. In 1993, Dr. Santiago earned his Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education from the University of Guam. He then went on to earn his master's and doctoral degrees in education and educational leadership from the University of Portland and Argosy University respectively. Today, Dr. Santiago celebrates over 15 years of service to students and colleagues as a cultural dance and journalism teacher at Agueda I. Johnston Middle School.

As demonstrated by his countless achievements, Dr. Santiago has consistently gone above and beyond his duties within the school system. In addition to collaborative curriculum and intervention development for holistic student success, Dr. Santiago has served as an in-house mentor for new teachers, coordinated cultural events for his school community, and successfully trained a school choir to earn 3 gold medals in a CHamoru language competition. Further, he is a trailblazing force that has created curricula for Cultural Arts and Dance for all secondary grade levels, introduced a new method to simultaneously teach cultural dance to both face-to-face and online learners amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and developed a new CHamoru language program with support from local government agencies. Most impressive, however, is his personal undertaking to establish deeper understanding and awareness of cultural concepts as an inherent part of Guam's public education.

On behalf of the People of Guam, I would like to extend a sincere congratulations to Dr. Benjamin Santiago. His combined approach to advocate for both students and culture both challenges the traditional definitions of learning and success within the four walls of a classroom and better equips our youth to pursue any endeavor they dare to dream. Dr. Santiago's perseverance, ingenuity, and zeal to secure the best for our students encapsulates the limitless potential available to communities that work together in service of each other, and I wish him the best on the rest of his professional journey.

VICTORIA BEAGLE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Victoria Beagle for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Victoria Beagle is a student at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Victoria Beagle is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Victoria Beagle for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING DEVIN WILCOX AND HIS SERVICE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service and accomplishments of Devin Wilcox, my outstanding legislative assistant who's transitioning from my office to pursue a new opportunity. Devin joined my staff in 2019, after working in the private sector as a policy analyst. Since then, Devin has blossomed into an extraordinary policy wonk and leader.

Devin has been instrumental in my work to demonstrably change the lives of Black men and boys and improve our nation's infrastructure. Devin's legislative and political acumen were instrumental in building support for my recently enacted Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys Act. Devin also worked closely with transportation stakeholders on my priorities that were included in the Infrastructure Jobs and Investment Act.

Additionally, Devin has created pipelines for diverse students to access coveted internship, fellowship, and employment opportunities on Capitol Hill. Understandably, he has earned the respect of his colleagues and stakeholders alike.

Devin was born and raised in Florida City, Florida. He's a product of the Miami-Dade County Public School system and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Florida International University in 2014.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Devin Wilcox for his extraordinary accomplishments, commitment to public service, and for being a trailblazer.